

BCC 2007-107
April 18, 2007PHONE: (406) 258-4877
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Dave Cole, Administrator
Community Development Division
Department of Commerce
P.O. Box 200523
Helena, Montana 59620-0523

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Ravalli County Commissioners
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Dear Mr. Cole:

The Missoula Board of County Commissioners is pleased to offer our support for the Ravalli County Countywide Zoning Project in general, and their application for a Montana Community Development Block Grant in particular.

We recognize that low to moderate-income residents face a number of challenges in this region, including finding adequate safe affordable housing and good-paying jobs with benefits. We believe that Ravalli County's efforts to manage growth to efficiently plan for housing and economic development opportunities are important steps in the planning process. These activities will help to better serve the low to moderate-income residents throughout our region. Furthermore, we recognize that it is essential to use high quality data and analysis methods as the basis for planning activities. The Montana Community Development Block Grant application from Ravalli County will help fund this part of the countywide zoning project.

It is important to note that the land use planning efforts in Ravalli County are in harmony with the missions of a number of socio-economic development regional agencies and collaborative efforts. Both Missoula and Ravalli Counties participate in the Human Resource Council (District XI), Bitter Root Resource Conservation and Development Area (RC&D), and the Bitter Root Economic Development District (BREDD).

Ravalli County's efforts to prepare a countywide zoning plan, based on high quality data and analysis methods, serve as an excellent example to all fast growing and urban counties in Montana. Their efforts complement our own planning activities. Please strongly consider their application and help fund this comprehensive planning effort.

Sincerely,
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Barbara Evans, Chairman

Jean Curtiss, Commissioner

Bill Carey, Commissioner

BCC/ppr

cc: Ravalli County Commissioners
Missoula County Rural Initiatives

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